

House Resolution No. 2787

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge milestone events in the histories of Show-Me State religious institutions that have proven down through the years to be exemplary components of local communities and neighborhoods through the excellence of their spiritual leadership and services they provide; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church of Nevada, Missouri, was founded on June 19, 1858, as the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ of Nevada City with fourteen charter members and with the Reverend James Box serving as the first pastor; and

Whereas, from June 27 to June 29, 2008, First Baptist Church will celebrate its One Hundred Fiftieth anniversary with a variety of events that include a Friday hamburger feast followed by a concert with Springfield's own "Heartbeat", a Saturday concert featuring the "Tulsa Praise Orchestra", and a Sunday luncheon in the family life center after morning worship services and followed by a musical and drama presentation of the church's history; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church can trace its roots to even earlier churches, the Marmaton Church and the New Hope Church of Nevada; and

Whereas, the traumas and depredations associated with the Civil War created turmoil in the history of First Baptist Church, which rebuilt its burned house of worship in 1871 after the scattered church membership regrouped in 1868; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church successfully strove to meet the expectations and needs of each new generation of believers by introducing Sunday School, Teachers and Officers meetings, baptisms in an indoor baptistry, the Ladies Aid Society and the New Church Society that combined to form the Women's Missionary Society and then the Women's Missionary Union, and Vacation Bible School; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church also embarked in great exercises in faith by building new facilities as they were needed to keep up with the steady growth in membership and ministries as time progressed through the decades:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with First Baptist Church and to convey to all of those involved, especially current pastor Dr. William Cox, this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes for a highly successful Sesquicentennial Anniversary celebration in June 2008; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of First Baptist Church of Nevada, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Barney Fisher
District No. 125

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2787, adopted May 7, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker